try for promoting industrialisation of backward areas/districts and the Central assistance/grants released during the last three years are given below:

(1) Growth Centre Scheme, 1988, which replaced the erstwhile 'No Industry District Scheme':

Under this Scheme 71 growth centres are proposed to be developed out of which 41 have already been finally approved and a total amount of Rs. 200.79 crores has been released so far as Central assistance towards them. This Scheme had replaced the erstwhile 'No Industry District Scheme'. The year-wise details of the releases made during the last three years under these two Schemes are separately indicated below:-

Year	Amount released (Rs. in crores)		
	Growth Centre Scheme	NID Scheme	Total
1993-94	7.00	Nil	7.00
1994-95	80.39	4.17	84.56
1995-96	47.16	1.50	48.66

(2) *Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (IID Scheme) for infrastructure development in the States:*

This Scheme was introduced in 1994. Under the Scheme 50 developmental centres are proposed to be set up in backward districts of the country which are not covered under the Growth Centre Scheme. Out of those 50 centres, 15 have already been sanctioned. A total of Rs. 959.71 lakhs have been released as grants by the Government of India during the last two years as given below:

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	778.71
1995-96	181.00

(3) *Transport Subsidy Scheme in hilly remote and inaccessible areas:*

In order to promote industrialisation of hilly and inaccessible regions and subsidising industrial units for the high cost of transportation in these regions, the Government of India has been operating a Transport Subsidy Scheme since 1971. Presently the Scheme has been extended upto 31st March, 2000. Under the Scheme 50% to 90% of the transportation cost of raw material into and finished goods out of the selected areas is reimbursed. The details of the reimbursement made during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	31.99
1994-95	54.30
1995-96	50.00

Restructuring of organisational set up of KVIC

146. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task of revamping of organisational set up of Khadi and Village Industries Commission was entrusted to the Indian Institute of Public Administration by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the said Institute has submitted its recommendations in this regard to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the basis of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The task of revamping of the organisational set-up of the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) was not entrusted to the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) by the Government. On the other hand, the IIPA was commissioned by the KVIC to undertake a study on the restructuring of the KVIC set-up.

(b) to (d) The IIPA has submitted its recommendations to the KVIC and the same are under examination by the Commission. Government will take appropriate action as and when the KVIC refer the matter to them after due consideration of the recommendations made by the IIPA.

Simplification of Trade Procedures with Pakistan

147. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Pakistan, in order to improve trade relations with India, have allowed lifting of restrictions on trade; and

(b) if so, whether India will also simplify trade procedures and other formalities to boost exports of India to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No Sir.

(b) As far as policies and procedures relating to exports from India to Pakistan are concerned, they are identical to the policies and procedures applicable to exports to any other part of the world.

Offences against the Weaker Sections of Society

148. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the present law with a view to make it more stringent for the offences against the weaker sections of the society which are on the increase;

(b) whether Government propose to create separate courts for the trial of such offences; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring the aforementioned legislation in the current session of the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) Proposals to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to provide, *inter alia*, for inclusion of certain offences and for enhanced penalties for some existing offences, and also to provide for the mandatory establishment of Special Courts exclusively for trying offences under the Act, are under the consideration of the Government. A proposal to amend the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 to provide for the mandatory establishment of Special Mobile Courts exclusively for trying offences under that Act is also under consideration.

Steps to Eliminate Child Labour

149. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different steps taken/initiated/contemplated to eliminate child labour in India;

(b) whether Union Government have issued any policy directives in this regard to the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of different States thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government have taken several steps to tackle the problem of child labour. As per the National Child Labour Policy, 1987, the problem of child labour is being tackled through (i) Legislation; (ii) General Development Programmes for the benefit of children; and (iii) through implementation of National Child Labour Projects.

A comprehensive law namely, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 already exists to prohibit the employment of children in 7 occupations 18 processes. In addition, for safeguarding the interests of children, there are